

English proficient students uniquely tailored to their individual needs.

It is my great privilege to recognize Mr. Dale Brown today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his excellent work in public education. His dedication to the Warren County School District is felt by students, teachers, and administrators alike. He is an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

#### THE VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS

#### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2007*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise today to express my deepest sympathy to everyone in the Virginia Tech community, and to all of their shocked and grieving loved ones. I know I also join millions around the nation who are at a loss to fully comprehend yesterday's shootings on the Virginia Tech campus that took 33 lives, including the shooter. I also pray for the quick and full recovery of all those who were injured.

I am also profoundly saddened to learn that Daniel O'Neil, of Lincoln, RI, was a victim of yesterday's shootings. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

Madam Speaker, every life that was lost yesterday was taken too early. Every life taken had a history, a family and dreams for the future. In the coming days, these lives will be identified, and we will hear many terrible stories about what happened in those buildings. We will also hear about heroic acts in the face of unimaginable terror. As a nation, we must find solace in each other and reach out to those that need us the most.

As long as I have been in public service, I have tried to answer the question, "how can we make our country safer than it is right now?" Unfortunately, yesterday's events showed us all how much work needs to be done. While many questions remain, we do know that yesterday marked the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. I believe it is our job in Congress to make sure an incident like this never happens again. As we await the findings of the investigation, we must look to our laws and security procedures to make sure that they are protecting our citizens. I also hope we can learn from this tragedy will spur a national discussion on how we can reduce gun violence.

Today, let us reflect on the lives we have so senselessly and tragically lost. May we keep them and their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers, and may their memory live on forever.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

#### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2007*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res.

273—Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

Have you seen the headlines recently? Only yesterday, it was reported that mortgage defaults are at an all time high in California. According to one report, 46,760 borrowers defaulted between January and March. That's an increase of 23.1 percent relative to the previous quarter, and 148 percent compared with the same period a year ago.

In another story, I read that foreclosures of homes in California were 11,033 in the first quarter. That's an 81.5 percent increase over last quarter.

I'm concerned about the effect that this is having on families in my home state. I'm also concerned about the effect that this is having on the economy of the nation as a whole.

While it is impossible to say that this crisis could have been avoided, we can certainly do more to shield consumers from its worst effects. One of those ways is to promote greater financial literacy.

This bill, H. Res. 273, is an important tool for increasing awareness, and points the way forward toward creating greater financial literacy in our communities.

The potential benefits of greater financial literacy are almost incalculable. We can be sure that greater awareness and understanding of finances will lead to higher savings rates. It will allow consumers to gain access to less expensive and less risky loans. And it will protect people from getting into a precarious financial situation without their understanding the consequences.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and for us to join together to not only promote the goals of financial literacy, but also, to make them a reality.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE FILM SCHOOL OF SAN ANTONIO

#### HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2007*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of The Film School of San Antonio, a magnet program on the campus of Harlandale High School in the Harlandale Independent School District of San Antonio, Texas.

Utilizing a rigorous, sequential and customized curriculum, the Film School of San Antonio provides first hand experience in the collaborative arts of filmmaking, screenwriting, animation and drama. Additionally, the film school prepares students for job opportunities, scholarships and college admissions. With a strong foundation in media, students also compete in national contests and film festivals.

The Film School of San Antonio and its students have earned a wealth of awards and accolades. In 2005, the program received an Emmy nomination for their film "La Corrida," a documentary on the plight of illegal immigrants in "No Mans Land" just north of the U.S./Mexican border. In 2006, the program's student produced film Mocha, made history when it won a non-student category Emmy Award. This is the first high school to be able to claim this achievement in Texas. Most recently, the school was invited by the Sundance Institute

to attend the internationally recognized Sundance Film Festival to meet and network with Producers and Directors.

The famous actor and filmmaker Orson Welles once said that, "A film is never really good unless the camera is an eye in the head of a poet." The students at the Film School of San Antonio are poets that through film find their expression. Through their engagement with the program and the assistance of their dedicated teachers, the students at the Film School of San Antonio are able to give their poetic visions a reality.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to the program director George F. Ozuna; the school instructors: Pete Barcenez, Dagoberto Patlán, Daniel Garcia and Sharon Shuler; the school's students: Briana Baiz, Mercedes Casarez, Krysten Casias, Samuel Garcia, Michael Levine, Felix Perez and Raul Servin; and their families. Their work is inspiring. I am proud of their success and hope that film continues to bring them much personal satisfaction.

VAN JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL,

*Van, WV, February 22, 2007.*

Congressman NICK RAHALL,  
Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL: We are the Senior Civics class of Van Jr/Sr High School in Boone County, West Virginia. We watched President Bush's State of the Union Address and the Democratic Response. We are writing to you to discuss our concerns within the government today. Our Civics class consists of all male students, who (if the draft is enabled) would be sent to fight for a cause we don't understand.

Our primary concern is the war in Iraq. We are in favor of fighting terrorism, but America went into Iraq under false pretenses. We now know that Iraq had nothing to do with the attack on 9/11. We believe that the reason we went to Iraq is to gain a stronghold on the oil fields. We are trading blood for oil. We have strong feeling that America should have never invaded Iraq because our presence there is breeding more terrorism around the world. We are giving terrorists a common foe to retaliate against. We are incubating more hatred from other terrorists and now giving them a reason to unite hence the statement, "The enemy of my enemy is my ally".

We highly oppose the sending of 21,000 more soldiers to Iraq. Instead, we must start bringing soldiers home, because who is going to protect us while our soldiers are fighting overseas? Some soldiers are serving their third tour of duty against their will, commitments of the Backdoor Draft. America should have never gone further than Afghanistan. We have forgotten about Osama Bin Laden in our rush to topple Saddam Hussein.

All we are doing right now is debating while our soldiers are loosing their lives. Let us quit talking and do something! Young lives and futures depend on your actions. Please take into consideration the lives you can save instead of destroy.

Another of our concerns is the way our economy is being affected by the war. Just think of what 2.9 trillion dollars could have done for this nation. Then look at this figure, oil companies are making an annual profit of 39.5 billion dollars while many people in this nation are suffering in poverty. They are suffering because in today's society one cannot support a family on the minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour. Only three percent of Americans today are financially well off. The outsourcing of good paying American jobs is causing our unemployment rate to rise. If this trend continues, poverty will become more common and our society will become even more unstable.

The money spent on the Iraq war has put a tremendous amount of pressure on the recipients of Social Security. Many older Americans have to choose between medication and food because they cannot afford both. Add to this the fact that thousands of Americans still do not have any health insurance.

America has become greedy and corrupt. When did America stop caring about the common people? The Civics Class of Van High School wants the voice of the common man to be heard in Washington, D.C. We are the future of this great nation and our representatives must consider this while debating the course our country will take, not only in Iraq, but also at home.

Sincerely,

The Senior Civics Class of Van Jr.-Sr. High School: Justin Gent, Christopher Boulet, Robert Burnett, Joshua Cook, Jason Hoosier, Matthew Kuhn, Terry Legg, Gregory O'Dell, Jonathan Simms, Robert Valle, Scott White, Kasey Whitman.

# RECOGNIZING JONATHON OTTO FOR HIS EFFORTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA

## HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2007*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Jonathon Otto for his efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Otto has raised money for and helped rebuild the Mississippi town of Bay St. Louis, which was decimated in Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Otto has been nominated for the Bucks County Chamber of Commerce's 2007 Ambassador Award.

Mr. Otto's career with Penn Valley Contractors, Inc. as a construction superintendent and estimator, along with his passion for helping others, made him the perfect candidate to spearhead fundraising efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina for the Bucks/Mont Katrina Relief Project.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Otto has truly risen to the challenge. He raised more than \$2 million and personally oversaw reconstruction efforts. He stepped up and coordinated the collection of materials, volunteers, and transportation, supervising the construction of a brand-new daycare center in Bay St. Louis.

Beyond the Katrina Relief Project, Mr. Otto has served the community in a variety of ways, including acting as Treasure and Director of the Phillips Mill Community Association, trustee of the Newtown Friends School, treasurer and clerk of the Finance Committee, and director of the Heritage Conservancy.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Otto is an inspiration for us all. When a community was in trouble, he jumped in and began rebuilding. On behalf of the residents of the Eighth District, of Bay St. Louis and of all Americans, I congratulate Mr. Otto on his commendable efforts with the Katrina Relief Project. In a stunning display of good will and humanity, he has reminded us of the important things in life and the value of community.

# HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE METROPOLITAN YOUTH SYMPHONY OF ARIZONA WAYNE ROEDERER, MUSICAL DIRECTOR

## HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2007*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony of Arizona. This is a remarkable milestone for any organization, but especially for a volunteer-run, non-profit one. As a long-time supporter of the arts, I must take this occasion to commend them on a job well done, and commend them for undertaking this ambitious endeavor.

Let me tell you a little bit about MYS. In the spring of 1982, a group of interested parents and music educators from the East Valley began exploring the potential for developing a youth orchestra. Their goal was to provide a challenging program of excellence in orchestral music for your school musicians through the ninth grade. The first Metropolitan Youth Symphony season was launched that same year as more than 150 youngsters participated in the September auditions. The gala premiere concert, on November 10, 1982, featured two string orchestras and one full symphony orchestra.

The growth of Metropolitan Youth Symphony has been impressive. Now in its 25th season, the 267 members of MYS, under the direction of Wayne Roederer, musical director/principal conductor; Lew Felton, associate conductor; and Amy Bennett, Division III conductor, are divided into three string orchestras and one full symphonic orchestra. Members attend weekly rehearsals at Westwood High School and perform in at least four formal concerts each season. Over the years, MYS orchestras have been invited to perform in a variety of locations including Phoenix Symphony Hall, the Mesa Amphitheatre, Fiesta Mall, Disneyland and Washington, DC. On June 13, 1993, members of Division I, the full symphony orchestra, received the honor of performing at New York City's famed Carnegie Hall. The gala 25th anniversary concert will be performed at the Ikeda Auditorium of the Mesa Arts Center at 7 p.m. on April 28, 2007, with alumni performing with Division I.

In addition to orchestra performance opportunities, MYS sponsors wind sectionals, a recital series, Division I weekend retreat in Prescott, a scholarship competition and the MYS Fiddlers.

The mission of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony has always been to educate young instrumental musicians through the ninth grade in the art of orchestral performance through the use of the world's finest orchestral music to develop character, discipline, leadership, cultural awareness, and a strong commitment to excellence. This enables MYS to contribute to the East Valley's rich cultural heritage and create a higher level of appreciation for the performing arts.

This occasion marks not only the 25th anniversary of a vibrant organization, but the retirement of Musical Director and Principal Conductor Wayne Roederer. Without him, this anniversary would not have been reached, and hundreds of young musicians would have

missed out on the experience of performing with similarly motivated individuals. I say thank you and well done.

# TRIBUTE TO THE LADY HORNETS BASKETBALL TEAM OF HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY

## HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 17, 2007*

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lady Hornets Basketball Team of Harris-Stowe State University for their crowning achievement on March 3, 2007 when they became the first-ever Lady Hornets team to clench the American Midwest Conference—AMC—title.

To win this historic title the team, led by Head Coach Christopher Lewis, soundly defeated the Columbia College Cougars by a score of 78–58 on the Cougars' home court in Columbia, Mo. To put the score in perspective and to appreciate the tenacity of the squad, a brief recap of the victory might be appreciated.

Trailing by six points early in the first half, the Lady Hornets worked a 40 percent shooting effort into a halftime advantage of 36–29. They opened the second half with one of their patented runs, extending their lead to 13. They continued to increase their field-goal percentage to 51 percent and their three-point success to 43 percent. Senior guard Laniya Stevens led the Hornets with 23 points and junior guard Chanel Ross added a double-double with 21 points and 10 steals. Both Stevens and Ross received First Team All-Conference honors, while Kanisha Pettis received an All-Conference honorable mention. Stevens received another honor when her number, 20, was retired by the school.

With their victory—their sixth consecutive win—the Lady Hornets moved on to play in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Tournament or the NAIA, also a first for the team.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Lady Hornets Basketball Team of Harris-Stowe State University—Jamira Easley, Dionn Jackson, Chareka Terry, Dominique Allen, K'Vonn Brittingham, Tawanda Barns, Briranda Griffin, Kanisha Pettis, Erica Anderson, Chanel Ross, Carmon Weaver, Laniya Stevens, Kimberly Lang, Valarie Mason, Amy Williams, Stephanie Roberts, Tamara Black, Shelia Walker and Marvis Jackson—for becoming the first team to earn the American Midwest Conference title. From a 73-game losing streak a few years ago to champions today, the Lady Hornets have become a shining example of what commitment, perseverance and hard work can accomplish. They are a force to be reckoned with and the pride of the school and the entire St. Louis community. In their honor I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in honoring the team, their coach, Christopher Lewis, Athletic Director Richard Fanning, University President Dr. Henry Givens, Jr., and the entire university. With such continued dedication and hard work, a national title could be in the Hornets' nest in the near future.